

**CITY OF MISHAWAKA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
June 2, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Mishawaka Historic Preservation Commission was held Tuesday June 2, 2020, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 600 E Third St., Mishawaka, IN 46544.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

Commission members present: Terry DeMaegd, David Eisen, Jennifer Johns, Shirley McAlister, Nancy Seidler, and Faye Sullivan.

Advisory members present: Alan Grzeskowiak, Tom Morris, and Jason Stoller.

Staff: Christa Hill

Public: Dave Straughn, Councilwoman Maggie DeMaegd

Chairman Doug Merritt was out on medical leave. The Commission sent their well wishes and signed a card.

David Eisen asked if we heard back from Todd Zeiger, Indiana Landmarks about the Hampton Public Library request. Christa Hill didn't actually send that email to Todd, just asked for links for the website. A motion by Terry DeMaegd, seconded by Shirley McAlister, approved the minutes of the March 3, 2020 meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

HPC 20-01 An ordinance amending Chapter 125 Historic Preservation to include removal of historic district designation or de-designation.

Both Legal Counsel and City Planner Ken Prince reviewed it. The suggestion was to remove the word for word and instead just include the reference to Indiana Code 36-7-11-23. That way, if something changes, we don't have an outdated ordinance. The exact wording is still included, so you know what you are approving. The application is just for our use.

Terry DeMaegd asked if we were using removal of historic district designation and de-designation interchangeably. Christa Hill confirmed it is called removal of historic district designation in the State Code, but we have been calling it de-designation, so both terms are interchangeable.

Dave Eisen asked about the notification envelopes. Christa confirmed we require that of anyone who requests a variance.

A motion by Terry DeMaegd, seconded by Jennifer Johns, recommended approval of HPC 20-01. It will be forwarded to the Council.

HPC 20-02 An ordinance to maintain Normain Heights as a Conservation District within the City of Mishawaka, Indiana. A Conservation District requires a certificate of appropriateness for 1) the demolition of a building; 2) the moving of a building; and 3) the construction of a new building. The District is legally described as: Lots 4 -316 Normain Heights, Lot 1 Normain Heights 1st Minor, and Lot 1 Main McKinley Corrective Plat, City of Mishawaka, Penn Township, St. Joseph County, State of Indiana.

A little over three years ago, we approved a Conservation District for Normain Heights. We needed to receive opposition by the end of February. The final votes are 175 NO, 29 YES. We need to do something official to indicate the votes. Ruth Pavich and Mary Beth Torma asked if they should attend the meeting. Christa Hill did not think it was necessary given the current situation. The Normain Heights ladies asked what if someone spoke against it. Christa didn't think there was anything they could do at this point, we have the votes, we just need this ordinance to make it official. Terry DeMaegd asked how the ballot was worded.

Dave Eisen asked if there were vacant lots. The only vacant lot Christa knows about is the one just north of the fire station, which was never included in the district.

A motion by Faye Sullivan, seconded by Terry DeMaegd, recommended approval of HPC 20-02. It will be forwarded to the Council.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Historic Districts/Plaques

- 1) Historical Marker – Candoli brother
Submitted by Greg Lawson while City Hall was closed to the public. They were jazz musicians who grew up at 404 W 11th St. Conte was a member of the Doc Severson Band on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. Pete DeKever had mentioned them in the past.
- 2) Historical Marker – Irene Vernon
Also submitted by Greg Lawson while City Hall was closed to the public. Property at 404 S Taylor. From what was submitted she was a nightclub singer. Terry DeMaegd pulled up Mishawaka's Wikipedia page which Irene Vernon. Her own Wikipedia page indicates she was on several television shows in the 1950's and 1960's, best known for Bewitched.

Christa Hill will provide the whole packet and allow Mr. Lawson to speak before voting.

Alan Gzeskowiak asked if Pete was involved. Christa didn't know since she didn't receive anything directly from Mr. Lawson due to the scheduling.

Christa will contact the property owners prior to the next meeting,

B. Public Relations & Community Education

Faye Sullivan would like to expand the sign program. She sees many property she thinks are worthy of a sign, but don't have one because they don't respond. If we contact them now, and work on it all year, we could include more. Faye is willing to take this on herself. We might need to make more signs. Every year we lose a few. Christa Hill confirmed we put up less signs this year. Usually we put up 70-80 signs. This year, only about 50. Maybe it was because churches and schools were closed during the time the letters were sent out. We changed the way the letter was worded, so all the ones that we put up this year, we don't have to ask again next year. Tom Morris appreciated the change to make less work for next year.
Maybe a billboard.

C. Staff Notes

Christa Hill found on Facebook Tracing your Home's History presented by Harvard Diggins Library in Illinois. June 11 at 7pm. An online event. Does this count for CLG in the time of CORONA?

OLD BUSINESS

Edgewater Drive Historic District Committee

The public meeting was in February. We met with the committee in March when we offered to take out landscaping requirements because there was a lot of discussion. Plus sidewalks/driveways because those items don't require permits and it would be hard to catch before it happened. The committee knows, but it did not get back to whole neighborhood. The committee is not in control of the Facebook page. Try to set something up.

Bethel University

Alan Grzeskowiak is back and forth with Bethel for wording on the markers. Since Bethel is closed, it has moved slowly. Brought up at a Alumni Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Preserving Historic Places Conference (October 13-16)

Dates have been changed to the fall. Everyone will have to re-register.

Senior Night Out

The event is Monday, August 24 from 6-8pm in Battell Park. Alan Grzeskowiak registered us with the Parks Department. We will have our swag. At the previous meeting we discussed collecting stories. Will we have electricity? Jennifer Johns suggested a release form. She can provide a sample. Try to keep them limited to 3-5 minutes. Ask a question to direct the answer.

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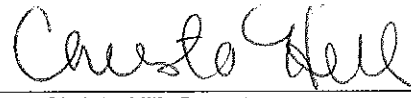
None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.



Dave Eisen, Vice-Chairman



Christa Hill, Secretary